

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/509,011

Examiner

R. Alexander Smith

Applicant(s)

TRULL ET AL.

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview of October 5, 2005 and the amendment filed on 28 September 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-38.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.132. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Mr. Woodall on August 5, 2005.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 5, line 25: The checkered character following 120 has been replaced by -- degrees--.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 20-38.

For independent claim 20, the claim limitations when taken as a whole constitute a combination that the prior art does not teach, suggest or show. The prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a storage part comprising a member for engagement with a task module, a mechanism for separating the task module whereby the mechanism has a tilting action

which causes the task module to separate from the retaining module with a component of rotational motion in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 21-31 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 20.

For independent claim 32, the claim limitations when taken as a whole constitute a combination that the prior art does not teach, suggest or show. The prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a storage port comprising means to separate the two members on upwards movement of the machine and retaining module when the modules are located in the storage port in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 33-36 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 32.

For independent claim 37, the claim limitations when taken as a whole constitute a combination that the prior art does not teach, suggest or show. The prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a storage port comprising a relatively fixed member, a relatively movable member being rotatable with respect to the fixed member about a pivot whereby linear movement of the retaining module relative to the storage port causes the movable member and the task module to rotate about the pivot, thus breaking contact between the task module and the retaining module with a tilting action in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

For independent claim 38, the claim limitations when taken as a whole constitute a combination that the prior art does not teach, suggest or show. The prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a storage port comprising a member which is engageable with a task module, a rotatable cam located between the task module and the retaining module, when the modules are located in the storage port in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

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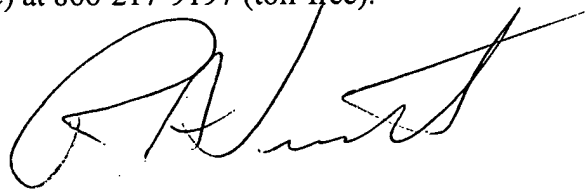
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Alexander Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2251. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



R. Alexander Smith
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800

RAS
October 7, 2005